

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) A system for linking from physical or digital objects to corresponding digital resources, the system comprising:

a registration means configured to:

receive data relating to an object, wherein the data comprises an identity and an owner of the object; and

associate the data in a database with data relating to a corresponding response;

an originating device means configured to:

sense data from an input object;

process the data; and

forward the processed data to a routing means;

a routing means configured to:

process the processed data from the originating device means;

log information concerning the processed data;

identify a product handler means to which at least certain of the processed data should be forwarded — from among plural different product handler means; and

forward the at least certain of the processed data to the identified product handler means; and

a product handler means configured to provide a response to the originating device means in accordance with the information provided thereto by the routing means, wherein the product handler means is distinct from the routing means.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the routing means comprises means for checking information in the database.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the registration means comprises means for generating an encapsulating file and means for distributing the file to predetermined parties.

6.-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A method of linking from physical objects to corresponding electronic resources, the method comprising:

sensing object payload data from a machine readable feature associated with a first physical object, using a hardware sensing device, wherein the first physical object is a member of a logical set;

querying a database with at least some of the object payload data to obtain first address information associated with the first physical object;

initiating an electronic link based on the first address information;

foreseeing information about object payloads that may be forthcoming but that do not share with the first object the payload data with which the database was queried;

and

anticipatorily obtaining second address information associated with such foreseen object payloads after obtaining the first address information associated with the first physical object, wherein address information associated with other physical objects — but not associated with the first physical object — is obtained in expectation that such other physical objects may thereafter be sensed, and wherein the second address is associated with a physical object that has not previously been sensed by the hardware sensing device, and wherein the second address information is associated with other physical objects that are also members of the logical set.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the logical set comprises a set of advertisements found in a particular magazine.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the received second address information is in an order.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the order is based on an order of printed pages in a bound volume.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the order is based on a contractual arrangement.

23. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

sensing a first object identifier from a first object, using a hardware sensor device, wherein the first object is a member of a logical set;

sending the first object identifier from a first device to a second device;

in response, receiving from the second device, first address information

corresponding to the first object identifier;

initiating a link from the first device in accordance with the first address information;

after receiving from the second device the first address information, receiving from the second device second address information corresponding to additional objects related to the first object but that have not previously been sensed by the hardware sensor device, wherein the second address information is associated with other physical objects that are also members of the logical set; and

storing the second address information in a memory at the first device;

wherein, if an object included among the identified additional objects is sensed by the hardware sensor device, the corresponding second address information can be retrieved from the memory in the first device without the intervening delays of communicating with the second device.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of linking from physical objects to corresponding electronic resources, the method comprising:

decoding object payload data sensed by a hardware sensing device from a machine readable feature associated with a physical object, wherein the physical object is a member of a logical set;

querying a database with at least some of the payload data to obtain first address information associated with the physical object;

initiating an electronic link based on the obtained first address information;

foreseeing information about object payloads that may be forthcoming but that the hardware sensing device has not previously sensed; and

anticipatorily receiving second address information associated with such

foreseen object payloads after initiating the electronic link, wherein the second address information is associated with other physical objects that are also members of the logical set.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the logical set comprises a set of advertisements found in a particular magazine.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the received second address information is in an order.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the order is based on an order of printed pages in a bound volume.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the order is based on a contractual arrangement.

30. (Previously Presented) A method of linking from physical objects to corresponding electronic resources, the method comprising:

decoding object payload data sensed by a hardware sensing device from a machine readable feature associated with a physical object, wherein the physical object is a member of a logical set;

querying a database with at least some of the payload data to obtain first address information associated with the physical object;

initiating an electronic link based on the obtained first address information;

foreseeing information about object payloads that may be forthcoming but that the hardware sensing device has not previously sensed, and an order in which the other object payloads may be forthcoming; and

anticipatorily receiving second address information associated with such foreseen object payloads, in such order, wherein the second address information is associated with other physical objects that are also members of the logical set.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the order is based on an order of printed pages in a bound volume.

32. (Previously Presented) A system for linking from physical or digital objects to corresponding digital resources, the system comprising:

a database;

a registration device configured to:

receive data relating to an object, wherein the data includes an identity and an associated owner of the object; and

associate the data related to the object in the database with data relating to a corresponding digital resource;

a routing device configured to:

receive data from a user device corresponding to an input object sensed thereby;

log information concerning the received data;

identify a product handler device to which at least certain of the processed data should be forwarded — from among plural different product handler devices; and

forward at least certain of the received data to a product handler device; and

a product handler device configured to provide a response to the user device, wherein the response is determined by reference to the database in accordance with the data received from the user device.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, further comprising a user device configured to:

sense data corresponding to an input object;

process the data corresponding to the input object; and

forward the processed data to the routing device, wherein the user device comprises a camera.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the user device comprises a wireless telephone.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, further comprising a steganographic watermark detector configured to decode information steganographically encoded in electronic or physical objects.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35, further comprising a user device configured to:

sense data from an input object;

process the data from the input object; and

forward the processed data to the routing device, wherein the user device comprises the steganographic watermark decoder.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the user device comprises a wireless telephone.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the wireless telephone comprises a 2D image sensor.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the routing device is configured to check information in the database.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the registration device is configured to generate an encapsulating file and distribute the file to predetermined parties.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the sensing comprises sensing an object identifier from a first physical, tangible object, wherein the sensed identifier serves to identify the physical, tangible object.

42. (Previously Presented) A method facilitating linking from physical objects to corresponding electronic resources, the method including:

at a second device, receiving, from a first device, first object payload data decoded from a first machine readable feature associated with a first physical object, wherein the first physical object is a member of a logical set;

querying a database with at least some of the received first object payload data, to obtain first address information associated with the first physical object;

transmitting the first address information from the second device, so as to enable the first device to link to information associated with the first physical object;

anticipatorily transmitting other, second address information from the second device, wherein the second address information is associated with a second physical object for which no object payload data has previously been received by the second device from the first device, and wherein the second address information is associated with other physical objects that are also members of the logical set.

43. (New) An article of manufacture including a computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to perform operations comprising:

sensing object payload data from a machine readable feature associated with a first physical object, wherein the first physical object is a member of a logical set;

querying a database with at least some of the object payload data to obtain first address information associated with the first physical object;

initiating an electronic link based on the first address information;

foreseeing information about object payloads that may be forthcoming but that do not share with the first object the payload data with which the database was queried; and

anticipatorily obtaining second address information associated with such foreseen object payloads after obtaining the first address information associated with the first physical object, wherein address information associated with other physical objects — but not associated with the first physical object — is obtained in expectation that such other physical objects may thereafter be sensed, and wherein the second address is associated with a physical object that has not previously been sensed by the hardware sensing device, and wherein the second address information is associated with other physical objects that are also members of the logical set.

44. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operatively connected to the processor having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by the processor, cause the apparatus to:

sense object payload data from a machine readable feature associated with a first physical object, using a hardware sensing device, wherein the first physical object is a member of a logical set;

query a database with at least some of the object payload data to obtain first address information associated with the first physical object;

initiate an electronic link based on the first address information;

foresee information about object payloads that may be forthcoming but that do not share with the first object the payload data with which the database was queried; and

obtain second address information associated with such foreseen object payloads after obtaining the first address information associated with the first physical object, wherein address information associated with other physical objects — but not associated with the first physical object — is obtained in expectation that such other physical objects may thereafter be sensed, and wherein the second address is associated with a physical object that has not previously been sensed by the hardware sensing device, and wherein the second address information is associated with other physical objects that are also members of the logical set.

45. (New) An article of manufacture including a computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to perform operations comprising:

sensing a first object identifier from a first object, wherein the first object is a member of a logical set;

sending the first object identifier from a first device to a second device;

in response, receiving from the second device, first address information corresponding to the first object identifier;

initiating a link from the first device in accordance with the first address information;

after receiving from the second device the first address information, receiving from the second device second address information corresponding to additional objects related to the first object but that have not previously been sensed by the hardware sensor device, wherein the second address information is associated with other physical objects that are also members of the logical set; and

storing the second address information in a memory at the first device;

wherein, if an object included among the identified additional objects is sensed by the hardware sensor device, the corresponding second address information can be retrieved from the memory in the first device without the intervening delays of communicating with the second device.

46. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operatively connected to the processor having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by the processor, cause the apparatus to:

sense a first object identifier from a first object, using a hardware sensor device, wherein the first object is a member of a logical set;

send the first object identifier from a first device to a second device;

receive from the second device, first address information corresponding to the first object identifier;

initiate a link from the first device in accordance with the first address information;

receive from the second device, after receiving from the second device the first address information, second address information corresponding to additional objects related to the first object but that have not previously been sensed by the hardware sensor device, wherein the second address information is associated with other physical objects that are also members of the logical set; and

store the second address information in a memory at the first device;

wherein, if an object included among the identified additional objects is sensed by the hardware sensor device, the corresponding second address information can be retrieved from the memory in the first device without the intervening delays of communicating with the second device.

47. (New) An article of manufacture including a computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to perform operations comprising:

decoding object payload data from a machine readable feature associated with a physical object, wherein the physical object is a member of a logical set;

querying a database with at least some of the payload data to obtain first address information associated with the physical object;

initiating an electronic link based on the obtained first address information;

foreseeing information about object payloads that may be forthcoming but that the hardware sensing device has not previously sensed; and

anticipatorily receiving second address information associated with such foreseen object payloads after initiating the electronic link, wherein the second address information is associated with other physical objects that are also members of the logical set.

48. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operatively connected to the processor having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by the processor, cause the apparatus to:

decode object payload data sensed by a hardware sensing device from a machine readable feature associated with a physical object, wherein the physical object is a member of a logical set;

query a database with at least some of the payload data to obtain first address information associated with the physical object;

initiate an electronic link based on the obtained first address information;

foresee information about object payloads that may be forthcoming but that the hardware sensing device has not previously sensed; and

anticipatorily receive second address information associated with such foreseen object payloads after initiating the electronic link, wherein the second address information is associated with other physical objects that are also members of the logical set.

49. (New) An article of manufacture including a computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to perform operations comprising:

decoding object payload data from a machine readable feature associated with a physical object, wherein the physical object is a member of a logical set;

querying a database with at least some of the payload data to obtain first address information associated with the physical object ;

initiating an electronic link based on the obtained first address information;

foreseeing information about object payloads that may be forthcoming but that the hardware sensing device has not previously sensed, and the order in which the other object payloads may be forthcoming; and

anticipatorily receiving second address information associated with such foreseen object payloads, in such order, wherein the second address information is associated with other physical objects that are also members of the logical set.

50. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operatively connected to the processor having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by the processor, cause the apparatus to:

decode object payload data sensed by a hardware sensing device from a machine readable feature associated with a physical object, wherein the physical object is a member of a logical set;

query a database with at least some of the payload data to obtain first address information associated with the physical object ;

initiate an electronic link based on the obtained first address information;

foresee information about object payloads that may be forthcoming but that the hardware sensing device has not previously sensed, and the order in which the other object payloads may be forthcoming; and

anticipatorily receive second address information associated with such foreseen object payloads, in such order, wherein the second address information is associated with other physical objects that are also members of the logical set.

51. (New) An article of manufacture including a computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to perform operations comprising:

at a second device, receiving, from a first device, first object payload data decoded from a first machine readable feature associated with a first physical object, wherein the first physical object is a member of a logical set;

querying a database with at least some of the received first object payload data, to obtain first address information associated with the first physical object;

transmitting the first address information from the second device, so as to enable the first device to link to information associated with the first physical object;

anticipatorily transmitting other, second address information from the second device, wherein the second address information is associated with a second physical object for which no object payload data has previously been received by the second device from the first device, and wherein the second physical object is a member of the logical set.

52. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operatively connected to the processor having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by the processor, cause the apparatus to:

receive, from a first device, first object payload data decoded from a first machine readable feature associated with a first physical object, wherein the first physical object is a member of a logical set;

query a database with at least some of the received first object payload data, to obtain first address information associated with the first physical object;

transmit the first address information from the second device, so as to enable the first device to link to information associated with the first physical object;

anticipatorily transmit other, second address information from the second device, wherein the second address information is associated with a second physical object for which no object payload data has previously been received by the second device from the first device, and wherein the second physical object is a member of the logical set.